

Patent

Docket No. 9222.16399-D DIV

GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE FOR ASSOCIATION WITH AN  
ELECTRODE STRUCTURE DEPLOYED IN CONTACT WITH A TISSUE  
REGION

RELATED APPLICATION

5 This application is a division of co-pending  
United States Patent application Serial No. 09/305,123  
filed May 4, 1999, <sup>now US Patent No. 6,358,245</sup> which is a continuation-in-part of co-  
pending United States Patent Application Serial Number  
09/026,296, filed February 19, 1998, <sup>now US Pat No. 6,009,877</sup> and entitled "Method  
10 for Treating Sphincter."

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

In a general sense, the invention is directed  
to systems and methods for treating interior tissue  
regions of the body. More specifically, the invention is  
15 directed to systems and methods for treating dysfunction  
in body sphincters and adjoining tissue, e.g., in and  
around the lower esophageal sphincter and cardia of the  
stomach.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

20 The gastrointestinal tract, also called the  
alimentary canal, is a long tube through which food is  
taken into the body and digested. The alimentary canal  
begins at the mouth, and includes the pharynx, esophagus,  
stomach, small and large intestines, and rectum. In human  
25 beings, this passage is about 30 feet (9 meters) long.

Small, ring-like muscles, called sphincters,  
surround portions of the alimentary canal. In a healthy